

8-DEC 1951

# ABERTILLERY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Medical Officer of Health

# REPORT

For the Year

1950.

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# ABERTILLERY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Medical Officer of Health

# REPORT

For the Year

1950.

# Abertillery Urban District Council

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1st January to 31st December, 1950.

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## COUNCILLORS.

Chairman	..	..	..	R. S. WOOD
Vice-Chairman	..	..	..	Mrs. F. J. BROWN

## WARDS.

**Cwmteillery**  
G. R. SHINGLER  
F. YEMM  
R. BAKER  
W. E. HODGES  
D. J. MORGAN  
L. POWELL

**Abertillery**  
W. D. EVANS  
(January—June, 1950)  
W. J. R. GUMBLETON  
(July—December, 1950)  
B. EVANS  
W. E. J. DERRICK  
Mrs. F. J. BROWN  
R. S. WOOD

**Six Bells.**  
O. TRILLA  
W. H. HILLMAN

**Aberbeeg**  
R. G. RICE, J.P.  
I. POPE  
H. ARSCOTT

**Llanhilleth.**  
J. SMITH  
C. H. MORGAN

**Day of Meeting—Last Monday in each Month,  
at 6 p.m.**

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Clerk of the Council	..	..	H. J. WILLIAMS, F.C.C.S.
Surveyor and Water Engineer	..	A. GORDON JONES, M.I.M.C.E.	
Accountant and Treasurer	..	R. L. ENGLAND	
Rating and Valuation Officer	..	H. P. BREWER, F.R.V.A.	
Housing Manager	..	C. E. COLES	

# Public Health and Cemetary Committee.

*The Committee consists of all Members of the Council.*

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Councillor W. H. HILLMAN, Chairman

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**Day of Meeting—Friday following First Monday  
in each Month.**

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Medical Officer of Health J. WALTERS BOWEN, M.B., B.CH., B.SC., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (Senr.)  
and Shops Inspector .. G. A. PARRY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Sanitary Inspector J. L. JONES, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector .. G. D. GRIFFITHS, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Rodent Officer .. .. L. JONES.

# ABERTILLERY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Area of District .. .. .	6464 acres
Rateable Value, December 31, 1950 .. .. .	£95,176
Estimated Net Product of 1d. Rate, 1950 .. .. .	£338
Population (Estimated Mid 1950) .. .. .	27,900
Population (Estimated Mid 1949) .. .. .	28,070
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, 1950 .. .. .	16.9
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population, 1949 .. .. .	18.09
Live Births, 1950 .. .. .	474
Live Births, 1949 .. .. .	508
Number of Deaths, 1950 .. .. .	353
Death Rate per 1,000 Population .. .. .	12.6
Number of Deaths, 1949 .. .. .	372
Death Rate per 1,000 Population .. .. .	12.96
Infant Mortality Rate, 1950 .. .. .	56.9
Infant Mortality Rate, 1949 .. .. .	55.1

# Abertillery Urban District Council.

## REPORT

### OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of  
the Abertillery Urban District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Brown and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the Year 1950 has been prepared to conform with Articles 6 (3) and 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London Regulations 1935 and also in accordance with circular 2/50 (Wales D/d 25.1.150) of the Ministry of Health (Welsh Board of Health).

Prior to January, 1949 the Urban District of Abertillery was served by a full time Medical Officer, and Assistant Medical Officer of Health who also worked as School Medical Officer for the Divisional Area but on January 1st, 1950 a full time Medical Officer of Health was appointed to act as District Medical Officer to the combined Abertillery, Nantyglo and Blaina Urban Districts and as Area Medical Officer to No. 5 Area under the Local Health Authority which is the Monmouthshire County Council. This appointment also included the duties of School Medical Officer under the Divisional Executive for the same area.

The Medical Officer's time was apportioned as follows :—

4/11ths to Abertillery Urban District.

2/11ths to Nantyglo and Blaina Urban District.

5/11ths to the Monmouthshire County Council.

In his capacity as District Medical Officer of Health he became responsible for environmental hygiene of the combined areas whilst as Area Medical Officer he became responsible for the decentralised Health and School Medical Services of the Local Health Authority under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health, Monmouthshire.

The Abertillery Urban District is situated in the Western Valleys of Monmouthshire, 13 miles north-west of Newport and 20 miles south-west of Monmouthshire.

Its greatest length, north to south, is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles, while it varies in breadth, east to west from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It has an area of  $10\frac{1}{4}$  square miles, being one of the largest Urban Districts in the County. The population is 27,900 and the rateable value is £95,176. (Abertillery

£70,009, Llanhilleth £25,167). The estimated product of a penny rate is £338.

The Urban Area is divided into 5 wards :

**Ward 1. Llanhilleth.**

This includes that part of Llanhilleth S.E. of the Nant-Cuffin, with the portions of Crumlin and Hafodryns which are within the district. Members on Council, 2. Area, 894 acres. Electors 2, 534.

**Ward 2. Aberbeeg.**

Comprises Aberbeeg and that portion of Llanhilleth N.W. of the Nant-Cuffin. Members on the Council, 3. Area, 927 acres. Electors, 2,857.

**Ward 3. Six Bells.**

Comprises Warm Turn, Six Bells and that portion of Abertillery south of Cwm Road and the Vivian Pit. Members on Council, 2. Area, 1,092 acres. Electors, 3,356.

**Ward 4. Abertillery.**

Comprises the township of Abertillery, with the exception of the portions included in Wards 3 and 5. Members on Council, 5. Area, 1,151 acres. Electors, 4,815.

**Ward 5. Cwmtillery.**

Consists of Cwmtillery with Penybont, Blaenau Gwent, and B-ynteg. Members on Council, 6. Area, 2,400 acres. Electors, 5,688.

The chief centres of population are :— Cwmtillery, in the Blaentillery Valley to the north; Abertillery, at the junction of the Blaentillery and Ebbw Vale Fach Valleys; Six Bells, in the Ebbw Valley to the South of Abertillery; Aberbeeg, at the junction of the Ebbw with the Ebbw Fach; and Llanhilleth and Crumlin in the Ebbw Valley in the South.

The Upper Coal Measures have been almost wholly denuded, but the Pennant Series form a moorland plateau from 1,200 to 1,600 feet above sea level, through which valleys, deep, narrow, and confluent, run from north to south regardless of the geological formation. The whole of the Blaentillery Valley and portions of the Valleys of the River Ebbw and its tributary, the Ebbw Fach, are within the area. The Tillery coal vein, at the base of the Pennant Series, outcrops in long lines on the sides of the valley north of Aberbeeg, and has been worked by levels.

**Births.**

	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Number of Births . . .	474	508	530	599	551
Birth Rate per 1,000 :					
Abertillery . .	16.9	18.09	18.8	21.3	19.48
England and Wales	15.8	16.7	17.9	20.5	19.1
Small Towns . .	16.7	18.7	19.2	22.2	21.3

The total number of births registered locally during 1950 as belonging to the district was 197, of which 97 were males and 100 females.

The number of births registered outside the District was 277 (males 154, females 123).

The Registrar General's return of births is 474. Of this number 251 were males and 223 females.

The number of legitimate births was 244 males and 220 females.

The total number of illegitimate births from the Registrar General's return is 10 (7 males and 3 females).

The number of births during the year 1950 is 34 less than was recorded for 1949.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 56.9.

TABLE 1. Showing the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Abertillery Urban District for the years 1949 and 1950.

	<i>Birth Rate per 1,000 Population</i>				<i>Death Rate per 1,000 population</i>		<i>Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births</i>	
	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>	1950	1949	1950	1949
England and Wales .. ..	15.8	0.37	16.7	0.39	11.6	11.7	29.8	32.0
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ..	17.6	0.45	18.7	0.47	12.3	12.5	33.8	37.0
148 smaller towns (Resident population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 census)	16.7	0.38	18.0	0.40	11.6	11.6	24.4	30.0
London Administrative County ..	17.8	0.36	18.5	0.37	11.8	12.2	26.3	29.0
Administrative County of Monmouthshire .. ..	17.4	0.58	18.2	0.58	12.3	12.1	39.8	42.7
Abertillery Urban District .. ..	16.9	0.82	18.09	0.46	12.6	12.96	56.9	55.1

## Causes of Death.

TABLE II.

<i>Causes of Death.</i> ALL CAUSES						<i>M</i> 204	<i>F</i> 149
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	5	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	7	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	2	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	11	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	16	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	20	18
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	1	4
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	24	38
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	3	2
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	3	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	11	6
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	34	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	4	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	7	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	6	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	4	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	2
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	22	16
34.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	1
35.	Suicides	..	..	..	..	4	—
36.	Homicides and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths in infants under 1 year of age						19	8
Legitimate						18	8
Illegitimate						1	—
TOTAL BIRTHS						251	223
Legitimate						244	220
Illegitimate						7	3
STILL BIRTHS						15	8
Legitimate						14	8
Illegitimate						1	—
TOTAL						15	8
Legitimate						14	8
Illegitimate						1	—

Estimated population 1950 for birth and death rates, 27,900.

TABLE 111.

Month	Male	Female	Total	Quarterly Births	Wards				
					1	2	3	4	5
January .. ..	12	14	26	—	8	8	—	7	3
February .. ..	6	9	15	—	2	4	1	1	7
March .. ..	10	14	24	65	5	7	4	3	5
April .. ..	7	7	14	—	—	3	5	2	4
May .. ..	10	6	16	—	—	5	2	6	3
June .. ..	10	5	15	45	—	4	1	4	6
July .. ..	5	6	11	—	—	2	3	2	4
August .. ..	4	8	12	—	4	2	2	—	4
September .. ..	10	7	17	40	5	1	5	1	5
October .. ..	6	8	14	—	3	2	3	1	5
November .. ..	9	9	18	—	—	4	3	7	4
December .. ..	8	7	15	47	2	7	2	1	3
TOTAL ..	97	100	197	197					
Inward Transferable Births .. ..	154	123	277						
Grand total for 1950	251	223	474						

Showing the number of births registered in the Abertillery Urban Area during 1950, according to sex, month, quarter of occurrence, and ward distribution together with inward transferable births.

TABLE III. Showing the infant deaths (*i.e.*, deaths in infants under 1 year of age) assigned to this district during 1950, by cause and in age groups.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Under 1 week</i>	<i>1—2 weeks</i>	<i>2—3 weeks</i>	<i>3—4 weeks</i>	<i>Total under 1 month</i>	<i>1—3 months</i>	<i>3—6 months</i>	<i>6—9 months</i>	<i>9—12 months</i>	<i>Total deaths under 1 year</i>
Prematurity ..	11	2	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1
T. B. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Spina Bifida ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ..	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	3
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cardiac Failure ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

TABLE V.  
Analysis of Infectious Diseases in this District during 1950. Showing Age/Sex distribution of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified in the District in 1950 also showing Admission of same to Hospital.

[illegible]

There were 19 inquests during the year.

The circumstances of the deaths are analysed and are as follows :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Cardiac failure associated with operations	1	—	1
2. Flying accidents .. .. .	5	—	5
3. Swimming accident .. .. .	1	—	1
4. Accidents in the Coal Mining Industry ..	6	—	6
5. Accidents on the roads .. .. .	—	2	2
6. Suicides .. .. .	3	1	4
<i>Totals</i> .. .. .	16	3	19

### **Zymotic Diseases**

Table No. V shows the notifiable diseases which were notified in the area during 1950.

#### **Diphtheria.**

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and each case was removed to Hospital and made uneventful recoveries. Neither of the children had been immunised and it is doubtful whether the girl aged 17 years had been done previously.

The immunisation of the pre-school child is now carried out at the Infant Welfare Centres by the various medical officers in attendance. Parents too may make private arrangements with their own general practitioner for such immunisation. To attain the maximum degree of protection by immunisation it is advisable that booster doses should be given when the child first attends school.

#### **Scarlet Fever.**

As will be seen from the table, 30 cases were notified of whom 12 were removed to hospital because of the impossibility of complete isolation at home, which is very necessary to prevent the spread of infection. All these cases were of a very mild character and were scattered throughout the district, there being no localised outbreaks.

#### **Measles.**

11 cases of Measles were notified during the year.

#### **Whooping Cough.**

2 cases were notified during the year.

## Food Poisoning.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks. (Summary of Details).

1. **Food causing Outbreak.** From investigations two bakery products from one bakery would appear to have been responsible :— Truffles and Chocolate Eclairs.

**Agent causing Outbreak.** *Salmonella* Typhi-murim.  
*Salmonella* Thompson.

2. **Cases forming Outbreak which occurred from 19/6/50 to 27-28/6/50.**

Total notified on prescribed forms	—	15
Total Ascertained .. .. .	29	29
Estimated population at risk ..	—	280—300

**Cases, positive—Total 15.**

<i>Age Distribution Years</i>	<i>Age/sex Distribution</i>			<i>Type</i>	
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Salmonella Typhi- murium</i>	<i>Salmonella Thompson</i>
0-5 ..	3	1	2	3	—
5 ..	4	2	2	3	1
10 ..	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	2	2	—	2	—
20 —	1	—	1	—	1
25 —	1	—	—	1	—
30 —	—	—	—	—	—
35 —	—	—	—	—	—
40 —	1	1	—	1	—
45 —	2	—	2	2	—
50 —	—	—	—	—	—
55 —	—	—	—	—	—
60 —	1	—	1	1	—
	15	7	8	13	2

3. **Clinical Features.** Internal—ingestion to onset, 20—60 hours.

**Main Symptoms.** Acute abdominal pain with diarrhoea and vomiting, pyrexia, prostration due to dehydration. Giddiness and transient diplopia and occasional trouble with the focussing of objects.

**Severity of Illness.** Variable, some more severe than others, and in these cases most markedly affected, the signs were typical of an acute abdomen.

**Duration of Illness.** 3—10 days. This varied with treatment given.

4. **Results of Laboratory Investigations.** 29 specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination of whom 15 were positive :—

13 Salmonella Typhi-murium  
2 Salmonella Thompson.

Specimens of those positive cases were taken afterwards at 4 day interval, and with the one case who worked in a bakery, he was suspended from duty until he had 3 negative swabs (on alternate days).

It is interesting to note that all cases became negative by the time the second swab was taken, and I put this down to the M. and B. therapy used by the general practitioners, whose co-operation in this minor outbreak was excellent and left nothing to be desired.

**Food Samples.** The suspected foods consumed during the relative periods were not available for examination. It was found that duck eggs had been used in the bakery for various mixtures, but laboratory tests on these proved negative and their origin could not be traced as they came from a packing station.

The samples sent for laboratory examination were all negative to bacteriological examination and these are listed below.

1. Dried Egg	..	..	..	..	*
2. Duck Egg	..	..	..	..	*
3. Water Icing (a)	..	..	..	..	*
4. Water Icing (b)	..	..	..	..	*
5. Sugar	..	..	..	..	*
6. Custard Powder	..	..	..	..	*
7. Cream Filling	..	..	..	..	
8. Various Pastry Mixtures	..	..	..	..	*
9. Trifle (a)	..	..	..	..	
(b)	..	..	..	..	
10. Gresso Tin Grease	..	..	..	..	

Of these, those asterisked were bulk supplies which had been used to make the suspected preparation.

With regard to Trifle—2 were taken from the batch made the following Friday (23rd June) after the first batch of trifles were suspected.

**Food Handlers.** In the bakery where the suspected trifle had been made, specimens of faeces from the four workers were sent for laboratory investigation. One had complained of Diarrhoea on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the trifles being made in the bakehouse, but had not gone off duty, and Salmonella Typhi-murium was isolated from his stools. As soon as it was ascertained that this individual had had the ailment he was released from work and did not recommence work until 3 further faeces samples on alternate days gave negative results. The clinical features of the abdominal upset were very mild—No abdominal pain but continued feeling of abdominal uneasiness with frequent call to stool—5—6 per day.

**Origin and Preparation of Food causing Illness.** Fairly well established pointing to a particular bakery. Of 15 cases 13 were infected with *Salmonella-Typhi-murium*, 2 were infected with *Salmonella Thompson*, and of these 13, 11 had eaten trifle from the bakery, while of the remaining 2, 1 had eaten chocolate eclairs from the bakery. However, 108 trifles and 150 eclairs were made and sold, so that more cases should have been expected.

**Places at which food suspected of causing illness was consumed.** Home consumption, trifles and eclairs bought from main shop or sub agents with weekly rations. Estimated number of consumers 280—300.

**Probable origin of Infection or Contamination of Food.** It is significant that one of the workers at the bakery had been " off colour " and had Diarrhoea for 48 hours before the suspected commodities were prepared and he had a positive faeces result. Therefore, it could be put down to an actual case giving rise to the minor epidemic.

### **Poliomyelitis**

A case of Poliomyelitis in a girl aged  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years was notified in October. She was immediately admitted to Alt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport, from whence she was ultimately discharged with paralysis of left leg.

Showing Monthly notification of Tuberculosis (all forms) for the year, 1950, with Ward Distribution.

TABLE VI.

Showing Monthly notification of Tuberculosis (all forms) for the year 1950, with Ward Distribution.

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL	WARDS				
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		1	2	3	4	5
January ..	—	1	2	—	3	—	2	—	—	1
February	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
March ..	3	1	—	2	6	—	2	2	—	2
April ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
May ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ..	1	2	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ..	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
November	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
December	2	1	1	—	4	—	1	2	—	1
	10	7	3	2	22	—	6	9	—	7

TABLE VII.

Year	Yearly Notification of Tuberculosis				Total Yearly Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary T.B.		Yearly Deaths from Tuberculosis				Total Yearly Deaths from Tuberculosis
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Males	Females	Males	Females			Males	Females	Males	Females	
1942	15	16	7	2	40	9	8	2	2	21	
1943	28	12	1	4	45	16	5	1	—	22	
1944	13	20	3	3	39	5	4	—	2	11	
1945	10	18	4	5	37	7	8	—	2	19	
1946	16	11	2	4	33	10	1	—	2	13	
1947	15	10	3	4	32	3	5	1	1	10	
1948	8	15	1	2	26	7	7	1	1	16	
1949	17	9	3	1	30	10	8	1	2	21	
1950	10	7	3	2	22	6	3	1	1	11	

TABLE VIII. Showing the admissions and discharges to institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis during 1950.

INSTITUTION	ADMISSIONS		DISCHARGES	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Chepstow Annexe	2	—	3	—
Gelli-Gaer ..	—	1	—	—
Glan Ely .. ..	6	—	—	—
South Wales Sanatorium, Talgarth	2	—	—	—
Sully .. ..	1	1	1	—
Cefn Mably ..	1	1	—	—
North Wales Sanatorium .. ..	—	2	—	—
	12	5	4	—

All cases of suspected Tuberculosis are seen at the Chest Clinic run by the Regional Hospital Board.

The number of new cases examined from the Abertillery District during 1950 was 366 and of these the number of cases diagnosed as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. 14 males  
8 females

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. 1 male  
1 female

Total number of attendances during 1950 at the Clinic, (*i.e.*, new and old cases during 1950)—845.

TABLE IX. Showing the infant mortality rates for E. and W., the County Boroughs and Great Towns, the smaller towns, the Administrative County of Monmouthshire and Abertillery U.D. for 1949 and 1950.

Year	England and Wales	126 Co. Boroughs & Great Towns (Inc. London)	148 smaller towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	Administrative County of Monmouthshire	Abertillery Urban District
1949	32	37.0	30	42.7	51.1
1950	29.8	33.8	24.4	39.8	56.9

### Meteorological Records

#### SUMMARY OF DAILY RECORDS TAKEN AT NEW CEMETERY AND PARK, 1950

Month	The Park		New Cemetery		
	Inches	Rain Days	Sunshine	Temperature	
			Hours	Highest	Lowest
January ..	1.57	12	6.0	52.4	17.0
February ..	10.43	19	14.4	51.2	32.0
March ..	4.02	12	78.21	62.5	26.5
April ..	3.51	24	66.6	63.0	28.8
May ..	3.71	11	94.2	74.5	34.0
June ..	1.79	11	126.9	84.8	38.9
July ..	9.54	19	68.0	72.4	40
August ..	7.80	23	74.6	72.1	41.8
September ..	7.27	27	59.9	65	35.5
October ..	2.52	18	38.3	66.3	31.0
November ..	7.86	22	27.1	54.0	25.2
December ..	3.24	22	20.8	49.2	17.0

Total inches for year, 63.26. Rain days 220.

Total hours of Sunshine, 675.0.

Highest Temperature for Year, 84.8.

Lowest Temperature for Year, 17.0.

## **Collection and Disposal of House and Trade Refuse**

The following report was kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor, A. GORDON JONES, Esq., M.I.M.C.E.

The collection of refuse in the Urban Area is carried out with Petrol-driven Vehicles with covered bodies of semi-circular type so as to prevent, as far as possible, dust being blown about while the lorries are travelling.

Collections are made three times weekly, also collection of Trade Refuse from the Business Premises.

The method of disposal is by the well-known Bradford Method, described as "Controlled Tipping."

On the closing down of the Refuse Destructor at the end of 1928, the disposal of Refuse was carried out by crude tipping which quickly resulted in complaints of obnoxious smells, vermin, fires, etc., especially on the Tip at Rose Heyworth Road. In 1932, however, the Council introduced the above described method of disposal by which the refuse was laid down to plan, properly consolidated, and covered over with earth at the end of each day's work. This method eliminates all the nuisances attendant on the old method, and is being used to provide facilities for recreation. The Council have formed Sports Grounds at Rose Heyworth Road for the Abertillery Grammar School and the Ground, when completed by the School Authority, will include a Football Field, Hockey Pitch, Cricket Pitch and Tennis Courts.

Other Grounds completed are at the Walpole Field, Llanhilleth, (now being used as Railway Sidings,) a Children's Playground and Recreation Ground at Aberbeeg, and another Recreation Ground is being formed at the Woodland Field, Cwmillery. Considerable interest is being shown in these activities by neighbouring Authorities, and several Councils have sent their representatives to view the progress and method of work.

## **The Abertillery and District Water Board**

The Engineer to the Board, W. CORY GODDARD, Esq., M.INST.C.E., M.INST.W.E., A.M.I.MECH.E., has supplied the following particulars.

The total rainfall for 1950, at Grwyne Fawr Reservoir, Breconshire, was 60.12 inches as compared with 52.39 inches in 1949, and 64.17 in 1948.

During 1950, the highest monthly rainfall recorded was 10.23 inches in February and the lowest was 1.61 inches in January.

The highest daily rainfall recorded was 1.73 inches on the 2nd February. Rain fell on 225 days at the Reservoir during 1950.

Main laying was completed at Rose Heyworth Housing Site and the water main in lower Pantypwddyn was renewed to improve supply in that area and also to assist the Six Bells area with high-pressure water.

The mains and service pipes in the Board's District are continually tested and inspected for leakages and many repairs are carried out to cracked and fractured pipes, caused mainly through subsidence.

### Public Sanitary Conveniences.

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#### ABERTILLERY.

Rose Heyworth Road  
Royal Lane, Blaenau Gwent, (facing Blaenau Gwent Chapel).  
Alma Street.  
Foundry Bridge.  
Tillery Road (below Club Row).  
Bush Hill.  
Ladies' convenience situate in Chapel Street with lady attendant.  
Alexandra Road (Ladies and Gent's) opposite Cwm Hotel.  
Market Street.  
Near New Bridge Inn, Penybont.  
Cwmtillery.

#### SIX BELLS.

Near Six Bells Bridge.  
Near Coach and Horses Inn.

#### ABERBEEG.

Near G.W.R. Station.

#### LLANHILLETH.

Opposite Ty'r Graig Schools.  
Near Central Hotel (at foot of hill over railway bridge).

#### CRUMLIN.

Near Viaduct Hotel.

## Common Lodging House.

There is only one registered common lodging house in the district and this is situate at Crumlin. The premises are kept in a clean condition and in good repair.

## Pit-Head Baths.

Pit-head baths are now established in connection with the Rose Heyworth, Cwmtillery and Llanhilleth Collieries.

These establishments are working satisfactorily, and are proving a great boon to those engaged in the industry.

Other pit-head baths are required, and plans at present are under consideration.

## Swimming Baths.

There are two swimming baths in this area—one situate in the Park at Abertillery, and controlled by the Abertillery U.D.C., and the other which is covered, is controlled by the Powell's Tillery Institute Committee, and is situate in Division Street.

The former, which is an open-air bath, was originally constructed in 1900, and measures 90 feet x 30 feet, with 88,594 gallons capacity. The bath was modernised in 1936 at a cost of £3,000, providing a bath 92 feet x 43 feet, with 125,000 gallons capacity. The special filtration plant is capable of "turning the water over" in six hours. There are 20 cubicles for men and 13 for women, with provision for sun-bathing on concrete promenades.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Date of Construction                  | 1900—Modernised 1936.  |
| 2. Open-air or Covered                   | Open-air.  |
| 3. Cost of Construction                  | Modernisation £3,000.  |
| 4. Capacity :—                           |  |
| (a) Dimensions                           | 92ft. x 43ft.  |
| (b) Gallonage to fill                    | 125,000.   |
| (c) Number of bathers provided for       | 33 cubicles.   |
| 5. Method of Purification                | Filtration and Chlorinisation Plant.                                   |
| 6. How often changed                     | Six-hourly period of "turn over."                                      |
| 7. Source of Water Supply                | Local  |
| (a) If local, estimated flow             | (a) 30/60 gallons per minute according to season from adjacent stream. |
|  | (b) Mains supply.  |
| (b) If purchased, cost per 1,000 gallons | (a) Annual casement for water right.                                   |
|  | (b) 2/- per 1,000 gallons.   |

8. Laundry facilities (if any) None.  
9. Number of Cubicles 33  
10. Any other dressing accommodation provided None.  
11. Number of Staff engaged One to Two.  
12. Duration of open period April to September.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspectors, and other Departments of the Council for their willing co-operation during the year.

Yours obediently,

J. WALTERS BOWEN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

Abertillery  
Urban District Council.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's

REPORT

For the Year

1950.

Public Health Department,  
Oddfellows Hall,  
Queen Street,  
Abertillery, Mon.

The following is my report on work carried out by the Department for the year ending December 31st, 1950.

## The Sanitary Administration and Conditions for the year 1950.

The following tables show particulars of the work carried out by the Sanitary Officers :—

### Visits to Animals, etc., kept:—

Piggeries .. .. .	57
Stables .. .. .	12
Fowls, Pigeons .. .. .	25

### Complaints :—

Total number investigated (all premises) .. .. .	744
Common Lodging Houses .. .. .	14
Cowsheds .. .. .	10

### Dairies :—

Premises examined .. .. .	174
Number of Purveyors vehicles .. .. .	58

### Drainage :—

Number of main or branch drains smoke tested .. .. .	66
"    "    "    "    colour tested .. .. .	54
"    "    "    "    found defective .. .. .	93
"    "    "    "    reconstructed .. .. .	67
Visits to worked in progress .. .. .	165

### Dwelling Houses :—

Number inspected <i>re</i> complaint of nuisance .. .. .	610
Number <i>re</i> inspected .. .. .	837
Number inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding .. .. .	6
Interviews with Owners .. .. .	119
"    "    Tradesmen .. .. .	100

Licensed Houses, Cafés, etc., examined *re* urinals, W.C's .. 71

### Miscellaneous Visits :—

Visits not otherwise classified .. .. .	600
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Offensive Trade Premises .. .. . 147

### Public Conveniences :—

Number inspected .. .. .	90
--------------------------	----

Amusement premises .. .. . 59

Special visits (not classified above) *re* works in progress .. 61

### The nuisances were :—

Defective Roofs, troughing, down-pipes, etc. .. .. .	140
Defective Window-frames, doors, etc. .. .. .	39
Defective or insufficient yard paving .. .. .	4
Damp Walls, external .. .. .	44
Insufficient light, ventilation, and other internal defects .. .. .	22
Choked or defective drainage .. .. .	35
Insufficient W.C. and slop water drainage .. .. .	25
Defective and insufficient closet accommodation .. .. .	34

Defective and insufficient water supply .. .. .	3
Miscellaneous nuisances .. .. .	36
Defective ceilings .. .. .	40
Defective Walls (Internal) .. .. .	35
Defective Floors .. .. .	20

Many and varied were the nuisances discovered. In some cases the owners and occupiers were interviewed and the nuisances abated at once, and in other cases legal notices were served.

## FOODS.

### Milk Supply.

Number of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

A new register was compiled :—

Registered in 1950 .. .. .	40
Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk .. .. .	27
Licensed to sell Sterilised Milk .. .. .	7
Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk .. .. .	13

The greater proportion of milk consumed in the area is brought in from the English Counties and generally arrives in a clean and fresh condition.

Samples are taken at intervals for testing for Tuberculosis, other bacteria, and cleanliness.

The tests are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newport, and reports are forwarded to this Department.

The number of inspections made last year was 174.

15 samples of milk were tested in the area during the year ended 31st December, 1950, and 4 samples were found which were not up to the required standard. The Vendors were warned and further samples taken and submitted for examination.

### Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered during the year .. .. .	6
Number of premises registered .. .. .	47
Number of registered persons producing .. .. .	12
Number of samples taken .. .. .	28
Number of inspections of premises and vehicles .. .. .	135

### Water.

Number of samples taken :—

(a) Bacteriological examination .. .. .	37
Number satisfactory .. .. .	16
Number unsatisfactory .. .. .	21
(b) Chemical examination .. .. .	—

## Meat and Other Foods.

The following particulars show the amount of attention given to securing a wholesome supply of food.

Visits to premises :—

Fish, fruit and vegetable shops	..	..	..	..	239
Meat shops	..	..	..	..	479
Fried fish and chip shops	..	..	..	..	147
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	199
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	187
Premises registered for the preparation of food	..				162
Other premises where food is prepared, sold or stored	..				212

## Stores and Vehicles.

Attention is being given to the cleanliness of vehicles, wrappers, etc., used for bringing meat into the district and for conveying meat to the shops, and the conditions are satisfactory.

The men who handle such meat are compelled to wear clean overalls.

There is no public abattoir.

All slaughtering is now centralised at Brynmawr.

## Other Foods.

Meat, fish and fruit shops are regularly visited, and the food exposed for sale or stored is examined.

Pork Butchers' premises, where sausage meat and small goods are prepared, receive great and constant attention.

Bakehouses are regularly inspected, and the sanitary conditions are noted and dealt with as required.

18 cases of food poisoning were recorded in the district during 1950.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered by the Monmouthshire County Council.

## Food Inspection.

The following show the variety of Food Stuffs condemned :—

Hake, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	56 lbs.
Herrings	..	..	..	..	..	140 lbs.
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	128 lbs.
Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	58 lbs.
Butter	..	..	..	..	..	6½ lbs.
Faggots	..	..	..	..	..	960
Pastry Mixture	..	..	..	..	..	136 pkts.
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	11 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	341 lbs.
Pudding Mixture	..	..	..	..	..	24 pkts.
Stuffing	..	..	..	..	..	28 pkts.
Cream Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	22 boxes
Prunes	..	..	..	..	..	15 lbs.
Rice	..	..	..	..	..	11 lbs.
Sausage	..	..	..	..	..	168 lbs.
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	140 lbs.
Pies ..	..	..	..	..	..	86
Puddings	..	..	..	..	..	5
Greengages	..	..	..	..	..	6 pkts.
Kar-fats	..	..	..	..	..	17 pkts.
Fish Paste	..	..	..	..	..	6 jars
Dates	..	..	..	..	..	24 lbs.
Eggs ..	..	..	..	..	..	75 dozen

Tinned goods :—

Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	310 tins
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	1507 „
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	129 „
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	270 „
Preserves	..	..	..	..	..	56 „
Soup	..	..	..	..	..	92 „
Pickles	..	..	..	..	..	19 „
Meat	..	..	..	..	..	130 „
Misc.	..	..	..	..	..	83 „

## Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total .. .. .	34
1. <i>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	90
2. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	00
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered after service of formal notices .. .. .	
(a) By owners .. .. .	00
(b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. .	00
(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	75
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners .. .. .	67
(b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. .	—

## Housing, 1950.

SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY  
ABERTILLERY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AT 31/12/50.

	<i>Temp. Pre-fabs</i>	<i>Perm. Pre-fabs</i>	<i>Traditional (Including requisitioned Property)</i>	TOTAL
*No. of houses owned by Local Authority on 31/12/50 (in- cluding Flats) .. ..	100	74	307	481
No. of houses in course of erection on 31/12/50 ..	—	58	28	86
No. of houses for which sanc- tion had been given, but which had not been com- menced on 31/12/50 ..	—	88	26	114
†By Local Authority ..	—	—	32	
By Private Enterprise ..	—	—	2	
TOTAL .. ..	—	—	34	

\*Showing the Number of Houses owned by Abertillery Urban  
District Council at 31/12/50.

†Showing the number of Houses erected by the Abertillery  
Urban District Council and by private Enterprise during 1950.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949. Report for period 1st January—31st December, 1950.

1. PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE.

Type of Property	Number of Properties in Local Authorities Area				Analysis of Column (IV).			
	in which infestation was				Number infested by			
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	Mice Only
	Total	Notified by Occupier	Otherwise Discovered	Recorded (Total of ii and iii)	Rats			
					Major	Minor		
Local Authority's Property	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses ..	7,217	110	357	467	—	75	392	
Business Premises ..	582	9	6	15	—	15	1	
Agricultural Property ..	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL ..	7,851	119	363	482	—	90	393	

# MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Type of Property	No. of Properties	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices served under Section 4		No. of treatments carried out				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Section 6 (1) or by informal arrangements		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with Occupier		Under Section 5 (1)		Surface	Associated Sewers	No. of manholes treated
					Rats and Mice	Mice Only	Rats and Mice	Mice Only	No. of separate occupancies		
Local Authorities Property ..	26	57	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dwelling Houses	911	1,944	—	—	65	392	—	—	69	7	7
Business Premises	167	152	—	—	15	1	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property ..	8	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	1,112	2,167	—	—	89	393	—	—	69	7	7

## TREATMENT FOR RATS IN SEWERS.

Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Scheme N.S. 21 was operated in February and August, 1950.

## Registered Factories.

### Factories without Mechanical Power :—

Boot repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Carpentry and Joinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dressmaking	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Radio and Electrical repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	6

### Factories with Mechanical Power :—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Brewers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Motor repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Mortar mills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Carpentry and Joinery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Undertakers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sausage and Cooked Meats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Boot repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dressmaking	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Industrial Gloves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Monumental Masons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wagon repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Iron Foundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Non-Ferrous Foundry..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tin Plating	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wheel-barrow making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gas Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Printing Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Manufacturing Chemists	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lampshade Making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Precast Concrete Making	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Electrical Equipment repairs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Icecream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Watch repairers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Works of Engineering	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
TOTAL	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51

Registered Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
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## Factory Act, 1937.

Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	NUMBER OF		<i>Occupier Prosecuted</i>
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 enforced by Local Authority .. ..	6	40	—	—
(2) Factories not inc. in (1) to which Section 7 applies ..	49	399	—	—
(a) Subject to the L/A's (transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938				
(b) Others ..	—	—	—	—
(3) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	2	7	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	57	446	—	—

## DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

<i>Particulars</i>	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			<i>Number of Prosecutions</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred by H.M. Insp.</i>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) .. .. .	11	11	—	—
Want of Ventilation (S.4) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. .. .	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
	2	2	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. .. .	3	3	—	—
TOTAL .. .. .	17	17	—	—

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Brown & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. PARRY,

Senior Inspector.



